Vidarbha region of Maharashtra have been reported. The causing factors *inter-alia* also include early child bearing inadequate spacing between children, multiple pregnancies, etc.

(c) and (d) Central Government has taken various steps to improve the delivery of services under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, being implemented by Department of Women & Child Development. ICDS has been expanded to cover 456 additional projects and 1.88 lakh additional Anganwadi Centres. The Central Government has emphasized convergence of services under various schemes/programmes such as health, eduction, safe drinking water etc., and States/UTs have been requested to activate Coordination Committees at State, District, Block and Village level to ensure proper delivery of services at Anganwadis. To motivate Anganwadi workers, their *honoraria* has been doubled and a scheme of Anganwadi Karyakartri Beema Yojana has been introduced.

For Maharashtra specifically, 44 additional projects and 12,864 Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned. The Central Government has requested the State Government to relocate some of the new centres in the tribal regions of Melghat and Vidarbha and to ensure effective implementation of ICDS Scheme. The Central Government has also requested the State Government to come up with their proposals in case any additional assistance is necessary. The State Government of Maharashtra has taken some initiatives like Maternity Grant Scheme, Swayamsevak Yojana, Bharari Pathak Yojana, Door Delivery Scheme for Foodgrains and Operation "Kama" to face the problem of child death in these tribal regions.

These efforts are also being supplemtned by enhanced food supply by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution through schemes like Targetted Public Distribution System, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Village Grain Bank Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme etc.

Primitive tribal groups in Rajasthan

1321.DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

the details of the primitive tribal groups in Rajasthan;

whether Government have initiated any area specific schemes for welfare and development of these tribal groups;

if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry has identified 'Saharia' tribe of Rajasthan as Primitive Tribal Group (PTG).

(b) to (d) The Ministry has been implementing a scheme *i.e.* 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups' exclusively for the welfare of Primitive Tribal Groups since 1998-99. Under the scheme, proposals are received from the State/UT Governments and NGOs, and funds are released for activities like infrastructure development, income generating programmes, healthcare, educational development, etc. for the development of PTGs. An amount of Rs. 80.65 lakhs and Rs. 62.00 lakhs has been released under the Scheme in favour of Rajasthan during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06, respectively. Further, under the Scheme of Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Rs. 219.98 lakhs and Rs. 100 lakhs, have also been released during 2003-04 and 2004-05, respectively for development of Saharias, to Rajasthan.

Inclusion of tribals from Pondicherry in ST list

t1322.SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to include some of the tribals of Pondicherry in the list of Tribals;

if so, the reasons for not including the said tribals in the list, so far; and

whether Government of Pondicherry has made a recommendation with regard to inclusion thereof in the List?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Pondicherry has recommended for inclusion of some communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The approved modalities for inclusion/exclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution require consultation with various agencies such as State Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, which takes time.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.